

66-73-2087

Dennis Hedderman

1 of 2

C. I. A.
Wash. D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

23-6879

Dear Mr. Helms:

An article, written in a local paper here prompts this inquiry. As you know the Constitution requires an "account of Receipts" and "expenditures" of all "public money" - shall be published from time to time.

In the article, the Government questions the right of ordinary citizens to question its spending and the right to challenge if so doubted.

This question as concerned me for quite a while because I can't get any receipts from any other parts of Washington (Bureaucrats notwithstanding)

The article goes forth to say:

"How can a taxpayer exercise his right to challenge certain Govt. Spending unless he has the right to discover what spending there is" (and quote)

And further states:

"Mr. William B. Richardson lacks authority to bring this challenge!"

My Question to you is:
who gives you or your agency authority, to question his authority?

Is this not a Govt. By, For + of the People — who pay their taxes, and why shouldn't they know?

Yes, I too, would like to have an account of receipts and expenditures just so I know where my money is being spent.

I await your reply with anxiousness and Respect.

Mr. D. Hedderman

OGC 73-2105

9 November 1973

Mr. Dennis Hedderman



Dear Mr. Hedderman:

The Director of Central Intelligence has asked me to reply to your letter of October 18, 1973, inquiring about his authority not to disclose the Agency's receipts and expenditures.

I understand your concern that a citizen should be able to find out how his taxes are spent by the government. On the other hand, expenditures for intelligence activities must be kept secret if those activities are to be effective. For this reason, Congress has enacted laws protecting the Agency's expenditures from disclosure and has made the Director of Central Intelligence responsible for carrying out those laws.

The newspaper article you refer to concerns a lawsuit by William B. Richardson against the United States challenging the secrecy of CIA appropriations and spending. As you probably know, the right of a citizen to sue his government is limited by law. Mr. Richardson's right to sue in this case will be decided by the United States Supreme Court, which heard arguments on that question on October 10, 1973.

We appreciate your interest and hope you now understand why we cannot make public the Agency's receipts and expenditures.

Sincerely,



OGC:JDM:cap

Original - Addressee

✓ - RECORDS

1 - JDM Signer

1 - Chrono

1 - Executive Secretariat

Associate General Counsel

	UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

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Remarks:

Executive Secretary
12 Nov
 Date

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